

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

UPLAND WHITE ASTER

(Solidago ptarmicoides (Nees) Boivin)

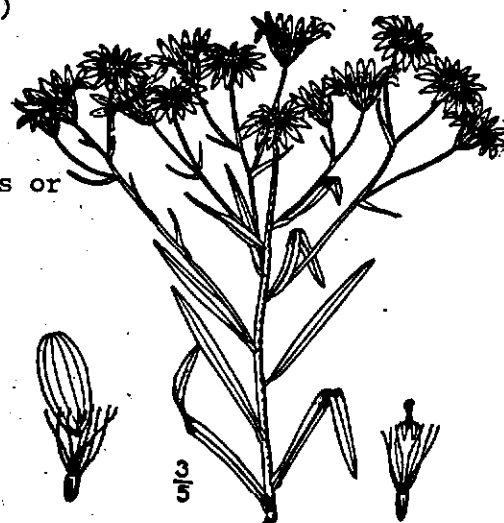
(= Aster ptarmicoides (Nees) T.&G.)

DESCRIPTION

Upland White Aster is a tufted, perennial herb, 8-19" (20-48cm.) tall. The slender leaves are firm, glabrous or scabrous (rough), entire or with a few distant teeth, usually 1-8" (3-20cm.) long. The basal leaves are larger than those above. It has a flat-topped inflorescence of snowy white flowers, each looking like a miniature daisy. It flowers from late July to early September.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

This species is found on open calcareous ledges or on dry rocky outcrops of sandstone, mudstone, and shale, often along rivers. It grows within the cracks, narrow grooves, and clefts of these rocks. Species found in association with Solidago ptarmicoides include Antennaria neglecta (Field Pussy-toes), Andropogon gerardi (Big Bluestem Grass), and Minuartia stricta (Rock Sandwort).



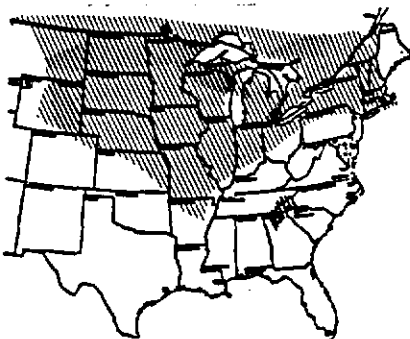
Britton, N.L. and N.A. Brown. An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada. Dover Publications, Inc. 1970 reprint of 1913 ed.

RANGE

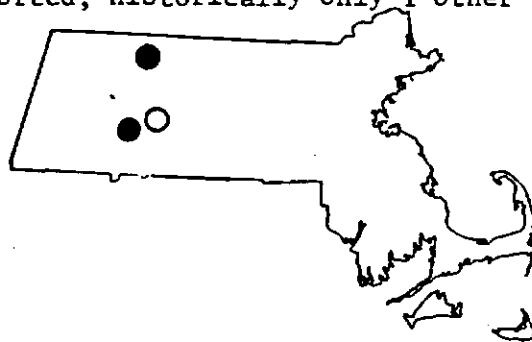
Upland White Aster ranges from western Quebec to Saskatchewan, south to Ohio, Arkansas, South Dakota, and Colorado. A narrow-leaved variety is disjunct in mountains of North Carolina to Georgia.

POPULATION STATUS

Upland White Aster is considered "Threatened" in Massachusetts. Currently (1978 to present), only 4 occurrences have been reported; historically only 1 other



Distribution of Upland White Aster



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town
(continued overleaf)

UPLAND WHITE ASTER (continued)

occurrence has been documented. This plant is rare because it is at the eastern edge of its range and in Massachusetts there is a limited amount of suitable habitat.